



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of all Sizes

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FREE APPLICATION ASSISTANCE FOR BUSINESSES

SBA resource partners to help business owners with disaster loan applications

Charleston, WV---The U.S. Small Business Administration announced today that two organizations will join SBA in providing assistance to victims of the severe storms and flooding that devastated parts of northern and central West Virginia. The West Virginia Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) and Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) are offering free help in preparing loan applications for small businesses impacted by the disaster.

According to SBA Disaster Area Director William E. Leggiero, Jr., "Affected businesses now have numerous locations throughout West Virginia staffed with experienced personnel who can assist them in applying for low-interest disaster loans. SBA is committed to providing the resources necessary to help businesses recover quickly, and the partnership between SBA and its resource partners furthers that goal."

In addition to assisting business owners complete the SBA loan application package, representatives from the SBDC and SCORE are also prepared to provide technical assistance and business counseling at **no cost**.

Interested businesses are advised to contact their nearest SBDC or SCORE office to obtain an SBA disaster loan application and assistance. Area SBDCs are open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. SCORE hours vary by location. It is recommended that interested owners call for an appointment.

Businesses in the primary declared counties of Berkeley, Brooke, Cabell, Hancock, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Marshall, Mason, Mingo, Morgan, Ohio, Pleasants, Tyler, Wayne, Wetzel, Wirt and Wood may apply for low-interest SBA disaster loans to repair or replace uninsured or otherwise uncompensated disaster-damaged business property and contents. Additionally, through the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, SBA can provide eligible small businesses with working capital to meet continuing operating expenses and debt payments until normal operations resume. Small businesses in the primary counties, as well as contiguous counties may apply for EIDLs. SBA business disaster loans carry interest rates as low as 2.9 percent with terms of up to 30 years.

The filing deadline to apply for loans to cover physical damages is November 19, 2004, and the deadline to apply for loans to cover economic injury is June 20, 2005.

Business owners are encouraged to register with FEMA at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Once registered, an application will be automatically mailed. Business loan applications may also be obtained via SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster.

For more information regarding SBA's disaster loan program or for a disaster recovery center nearest you visit SBA's website or call 1-800-659-2955. The hearing-impaired may call SBA via the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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Note to Editors:

SBDC and SCORE Locations

Charleston SBDC 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East, Bldg 6, Room 652 Charleston, WV 25305 304-558-2960	Charleston SCORE 1116 Smith Street, Room 302 Charleston, WV 25301 304-347-5463
Marshall University SBDC 2000 Seventh Street – Cabell Hall, Suite 304 Huntington, WV 25703 304-696-6246	Huntington SCORE c/o Unlimited Futures, Inc 1650 8 th Avenue, P.O. Box 1144 Huntington, WV 25714 304-523-4092
Community & Technical College of Shepherd 315 W. Stephen Street – Dunn Bldg Martinsburg, WV 25401 304-260-4385	Wheeling SCORE c/o Wheeling Chamber of Commerce 1310 Market Street Wheeling, WV 26003 304-233-2575
West Virginia University SBDC Route 5, Box 167-A 300 Campus Drive Parkersburg, WV 26101 304-424-8277	
West Virginia Northern Community College 1704 Market Street, College Square Wheeling, WV 26003 304-233-5900	

For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster
SBA Disaster Assistance Office/Area 1 - 360 Rainbow Blvd., South - Niagara Falls, NY 14303

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